

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Board Order ABP-319525-24

---

### Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2022

#### Planning Authority: Cork County Council

**Application** by Cork County Council for approval under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including a Natura Impact Statement, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024 as amended by the additional plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

**Proposed Development:** The proposed rehabilitation works of an existing structure at Ardcahan Bridge to allow corrosion repairs and minor parapet repairs within the bridge structure, deck works to repair the road surfacing and temporary site compound.

All located at Ardcahan Bridge, Ardcahan, County Cork.

### Decision

**APPROVE** the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the conditions set out below.

## **Reasons and Considerations**

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the European Union Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- (b) the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended,
- (c) the likely consequences for the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which it is proposed to carry out the proposed development and the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site,
- (d) the conservation objectives, qualifying interests and special conservation interests for the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002171),
- (e) the policies and objectives of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028,
- (f) the nature and extent of the proposed works as set out in the application for approval,
- (g) the information submitted in relation to the potential impacts on habitats, flora and fauna, including the Natura Impact Statement,
- (h) the submissions received in relation to the proposed development, and
- (i) the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Board to make a report and recommendation on the matter.

### **Appropriate Assessment Stage 1:**

The Board agreed with and adopted the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002171) is the European Site for which there is a likelihood of significant effects.

## **Appropriate Assessment Stage 2:**

The Board considered the Natura Impact Statement and the revision to same and all other relevant submissions and carried out an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposal for the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002171), in view of the Site's conservation objectives. The Board considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an appropriate assessment.

In completing the appropriate assessment, the Board considered, in particular, the following:

- (i) the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposal both individually or in combination with other plans or projects, specifically upon Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002171),
- (ii) the mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal, and
- (iii) the conservation objective for this European Site.

In completing the appropriate assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the appropriate assessment carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the potential effects of the proposed development on the integrity of the aforementioned European Site, having regard to the Site's conservation objectives.

In overall conclusion, the Board was satisfied that the proposed development, by itself or in combination with other plans or projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of the European Site, in view of the Site's conservation objectives.

## **Proper Planning and Sustainable Development/Likely effects on the environment:**

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not have significant negative effects on the environment or the community in the vicinity, would not give rise to a risk of pollution, would not be detrimental to the visual or landscape amenities of the area, would not seriously injure the amenities of property in the vicinity, would not adversely impact on the cultural, archaeological and built heritage of the area and would not interfere

with the existing land uses in the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

## CONDITIONS

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, and additional plans and particulars submitted on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where any conditions of approval require further details to be prepared by or on behalf of the local authority, these details shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record.

**Reason:** In the interests of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the environment.

2. The mitigation measures and monitoring commitments identified in the Natura Impact Statement together with the revised temporary site compound location, Ecological Appraisal Report, Bat Survey Report and Construction Environmental Management Plan shall be carried out in full.

**Reason:** In the interests of clarity and protection of the environment during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

3. A suitably qualified ecologist shall be retained by the local authority to oversee the effective implementation of mitigation and monitoring measures relating to ecology. The ecologist shall be present to advise and monitor during ecologically sensitive works. Upon completion of works, an ecological report of the site works shall be prepared by the appointed ecologist to be kept on file as part of the public record.

**Reason:** In the interests of nature conservation and the protection of biodiversity.

4. Prior to the commencement of development, the local authority, or any agent acting on its behalf, shall prepare in consultation with the project ecologist and relevant statutory agencies, a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP shall include:
  - (a) all mitigation measures indicated in the Natura Impact Statement together with the revised temporary site compound location, Ecological Appraisal Report, Bat Survey Report, and CEMP submitted to the Board with the application, and
  - (b) specific proposals as to how the measures outlined in the CEMP will be measured and monitored for effectiveness.

**Reason:** In the interest of protecting the environment and the European Sites.


5. The following nature conservation requirements shall be complied with:
  - (a) the works shall be carried out in compliance with the Inland Fisheries Ireland document "Guidelines on protection of fisheries during construction works in and adjacent to waters, 2016".

**Reason:** In the interests of biodiversity and nature conservation.

6. The local authority and any agent acting on its behalf shall ensure that all plant and machinery used during the works should be thoroughly cleaned and

washed before delivery to the site to prevent the spread of hazardous invasive species and pathogens.

**Reason:** In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the European Sites.

  
Eamonn James Kelly  
**Eamonn James Kelly**  
**Member of An Bord Pleanála**  
**duly authorised to authenticate**  
**the seal of the Board.**

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024